religion. Of recent times it lias almost entirely given up political and philanthropic work, limiting its activities to the upkeep of schools in the Near East, which are attended by some 40,000 Jewish children.

The "Ort" was founded in Russia in 1880, to assist the development of handicrafts, industry, and agriculture among the Jews. After the War it was reconstituted as a world-union in Berlin, but still works chiefly in Eastern Europe (Poland,, Russia, Roumania, Lithuania, and Latvia). In 1929 its receipts amounted to $556,000 and were derived from subscriptions and donations, and a contribution of $50,000 from the American Joint Distribution Committee.

Before the War, the Jewish Colonization Association (I.C.A.), founded by Baron Hirsch in 1890 with a capital of Frs. 200,000,000 (£8,000,000), was the most important Jewish philanthrbpical society. In Palestine there is a similar institution for agricultural colonization, the Palestine Jewish Colonization Association ("Pica"), which is a branch of the I.C.A.

During and after the War, the American Joint Distribution Committee, founded in New York in 1914 by American Jews, did most of the work for Jewish relief in Eastern Europe. At first its work was purely philanthropic, but since about 1925, when the political and economic conditions had become more normal and the

currencies stabilized, the J.D.C. has transferred its attention to constructive work, which it does through a new society, the American Joint Reconstruction Foundation; it aims at economic reconstruction, forms credit associations, tries to settle Jews in agriculture, and to train them in handicrafts, etc. For agricultural colonization in Soviet Russia the J.D.C. has established a special organization, the "Agro-Joint". As for the credit associations, in nine countries of Eastern Europe their number increased from 92 with a membership of 24,000 in 1921, to 757 with a membership of